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## **LUMIN, GRACE UMC ENTER ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP TO BETTER SERVE AREA COLLEGE STUDENTS**

LuMin St. Louis, part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) and United Methodist Campus Ministry through Grace UMC St. Louis signed a covenant on August 15 that'll pave the way for stronger collaboration and support amongst its campus ministries.

The LuMin St. Louis Board of Directors as well as representatives from the Grace Leadership team approved the covenant through a majority vote. The shared ministry will go into effect, starting in the fall semester of the 2021-2022 academic year.

"By combining the two campus ministries, it becomes a win-win for both groups," LuMin St. Louis Pastor Tina Reyes said. "The United Methodist Campus Ministry gains a staff person to oversee programming and gains a consistent presence on campus to strengthen relationships with students. LuMin St. Louis welcomes another church base for weekday programming and additional financial stability to expand ministry."

Among numerous efficiencies, the blended ministry will gain additional opportunities for worship and fellowship, with Sunday evening worship at the LuMin House on Forsyth Boulevard and Wednesday evening worship at Grace UMC.

"We are thrilled to begin this partnership and provide more care and support to students, educators, and all those who call our local universities home," Grace UMC Rev. Dr. Katie Nix said. "This partnership is a beautiful example of what is possible when we come together for a common good."

LuMin St. Louis — a progressive faith community serving colleges in St. Louis — strives to foster honest community through questions of identity and vocation with a focus on social justice. LuMin offers a variety of weekly events for undergrad and grad students.

Grace UMC strives to build a deep relationship with the next generation of leaders and pastors in the academic institutions that are a historic part of the St. Louis community.